

Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application  
PCT/EP2004/011623 filed October 15, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (new): A drilling fluid additive which comprises: a surfactant mixture comprising at least one of an alkyl oligoglycoside and an alkenyl oligoglycoside (APGs) of the formula:



in which R is an alkyl and/or alkenyl group containing 4 to 22 carbon atoms, G is a sugar unit containing 5 or 6 carbon atoms and p is a number of 1 to 10, in admixture with a free fatty acid containing 6 to 22 carbon atoms.

Claim 14 (new): The drilling fluid additive of claim 13, wherein, the fatty acid comprises a compound of the formula R'-COOH, in which R' is a saturated or unsaturated, branched or unbranched aliphatic group containing 11 to 21 carbon atoms.

Claim 15 (new): The drilling fluid additive of claim 14, wherein, the mixture comprises an APG of formula (I) with an unsaturated fatty acid of the formula R'-COOH.

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Claim 16 (new): The drilling fluid additive of claim 13, wherein, a weight ratio of the free fatty acid to the APG of formula (I) is from about 1:1 to at most 10:1.

Claim 17 (new): A drilling fluid emulsion which comprises at least one aqueous phase and at least one nonaqueous phase wherein an emulsifier comprises the drilling fluid additive of claim 13.

Claim 18 (new): The drilling fluid of claim 17, wherein, the drilling fluid comprises a water-in-oil or oil-in-water emulsion.

Claim 19 (new): The drilling fluid of claim 18, wherein, an oil phase of the drilling fluid comprises esters of saturated or unsaturated, branched or unbranched monocarboxylic acids containing 1 to 24 carbon atoms with monohydric, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alcohols containing 1 to 24 carbon atoms.

Claim 20 (new): The drilling fluid of claim 17 which comprises a water-based emulsion drilling fluid which contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of linear  $\alpha$ -olefins, internal olefins and paraffins in the oil phase.

Claim 21 (new): The drilling fluid of claim 17, wherein, the drilling fluid additive is present in a quantity of 0.1% to 25% by weight, based on a weight of a liquid portion of the drilling fluid.

Claim 22 (new): An invert drilling fluid wherein the emulsifier comprises the drilling fluid additive of claim 13.

Claim 23 (new): A well servicing composition flowable and pumpable at 5°C to 20°C which comprises a continuous oil phase in admixture with a disperse aqueous phase which contains dissolved and/or dispersed therein at least one

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standard auxiliary selected from the group consisting of thickeners, fluid loss additives, wetting agents, fine-particle size weighting agents, salts, alkali reserves biocides, and the drilling fluid additive of claim 13.

Claim 24 (new): The well servicing composition as claimed in claim 23, wherein, the oil phase comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of

- (a) carboxylic acid esters of formula:



where R' is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched C<sub>1-22</sub> alkyl group and R'' is a C<sub>1-22</sub> alkyl group which may be saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched,

- (b) linear or branched C<sub>8-22</sub> olefins,
- (c) water-insoluble, symmetrical or nonsymmetrical ethers of monohydric alcohols of natural or synthetic origin which contain 1 to 24 carbon atoms,
- (d) water-insoluble alcohols of formula:



where R''' is a saturated, unsaturated, linear or branched C<sub>1-22</sub> alkyl group,

- (e) carbonic acid esters,
- (f) paraffins, and
- (g) acetals.

Claim 25 (new): The drilling fluid additive of claim 16, wherein, the weight ratio of free fatty acid to APG is from about 1:1 to about 2:1.

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Claim 26 (new): The drilling fluid of claim 21, wherein, the drilling fluid additive is present at from 0.1% to 10% by weight.

Claim 27 (new): The drilling fluid of claim 21, wherein, the drilling fluid additives is present at from 0.1% to 5.0% by weight.